Ban on Terrorist Organisations in J&K

2205. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ban on terrorist groups/ organisations has expired in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, which are these groups;

(c) since when the ban has expired; and

(d) whether Government are of the opinion that since these groups/ organisations have stopped their anti-national activities, there is no need to ban these groups/organisations again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front was banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 vide notification dated 17.2.1998, which was valid upto 16.2.2000.

(d) Laskar-e-Toiba, Hizab-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-e-Jehad-Islami and Al-Bader are the significant militant/terrorist outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir and none of them has been banned. The matter is reviewed on a continuous basis and decisions regarding banning any particular outfit is taken as per assessment of the situation on the basis of reports received from various quarters. The State Government has been advised to consider to take suitable necessary action.

Overcrowding in Jails

2206. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over-crowding and unsanitary conditions of prisons have been reported in various parts of the country by the National Human Rights Commission;

(b) whether the Supreme Court's directive to district and sessions judges to visit prisons as part of duty is not being implemented; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed in this regard to tackle overcrowding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Overcrowding and prevalence of insanitary conditions in prisons has come to the notice of the

National Human Rights Commission during its visits to various prisons in different States and have been mentioned in their Annual Reports. It is reported that the Session Judges were not visiting jails in regular manner as is required under the Prison Manuals. Accordingly, the Chairperson has written to the Chief Justices of the High Courts of all States requesting them to direct the Session Judges to fulfill their duties more diligently. The Central Government has also forwarded the directions of the Supreme Court to all the State Governments/UT Administration.

(c) 'Prison' is a State subject as per entry 4 List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. However, the Central Government has been ineracting with the State Government on this issue and has stressed upon them the need to take effective steps to reduce the number of undertrials. The steps suggested by the Central Government include setting up of Special Courts, speedier trials of petty and minor offences and review of all undertrial cases by a Review Committee at the district level, comprising of the representatives of the judiciary, district administration and the prison authorities on monthly/quarterly basis.

ISI Base in Western U.P.

2207. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western U.P. is emerging as an ISI base;

(b) how many blasts in Delhi have taken place during the last two years which were done at the instance of ISI agency;

(c) whether any ISI agent has been arrested in this connection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) There are no specific reports to this effect. However, some ISI supported elements have been arrested by U.P. Police.

(b) Yearwise details of explosions that took place in Delhi are as under:—

1998	1999	2000
05	02	02

(c) and (d) Some arrests have been made and the investigation is on. In the bomb blast cases of 1998, involvement of Lasker-e-Toiba is suspected. As regards, the blasts in 1999, one person was arrested who was working at the instance of Khalistan Commando Force (Panjwar) having links with Pak ISI.